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GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY
FIREARM OWNERSHIP
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**GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY
FIREARM OWNERSHIP – MAY 1975**

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PREFACE

This publication contains final results of the first national survey of households and persons on the extent and nature of firearm ownership. Preliminary results of this survey were released on 28 July 1977 in a publication entitled *General Social Survey Bulletin No. 2 - Preliminary Estimates of Firearm Ownership and Possession, May 1975* (4103.0, previously Reference No. 13.18). The data was subsequently reprocessed and as a result some of the estimates contained in this publication differ from those in the preliminary publication. The estimates in this publication replace the earlier results.

The survey was designed to find out:

- (i) the number of persons who own firearms
- (ii) what type of people own firearms
- (iii) why they own them, and
- (iv) the general safety consciousness of firearm owners.

The survey on firearm ownership was part of a General Social Survey which was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in March to May 1975. Three other topics were included in the survey: Australian families, away-from-home leisure time activities, and crime victimisation. Separate publications are being issued on each of these topics.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Scope and coverage

The estimates contained in this publication are based on a sample of dwellings selected throughout Australia. Dwellings include houses, flats and other structures being used as private places of residence, hostels, boarding houses and living quarters for live-in staff in hotels and motels, hospitals and educational institutions.

2. There were 10,500 dwellings selected in the six States and the Australian Capital Territory. The sample included all areas of Australia except rural regions and locations with a population of less than 500 persons as delimited for purposes of the 1971 Census of Population and Housing. No Northern Territory dwellings were included in the sample. It was originally intended to include Northern Territory dwellings but because of the effects of cyclone Tracy in December 1974, the whole of the Northern Territory was excluded from the survey. It is estimated that approximately 86% of Australian dwellings were eligible for selection in this sample.

3. Persons were separately identified in each selected dwelling and information was collected from all individuals aged 15 years and over within each dwelling.

4. The following categories of persons were excluded from the survey;

- (a) foreign diplomats
- (b) foreign servicemen and their families stationed in Australia
- (c) persons from overseas countries touring or holidaying in Australia
- (d) all visitors except those households comprising only visitors who were remaining in the selected dwelling for the whole of the survey week.

5. The 10,500 dwellings originally selected contained 9,200 households eligible for inclusion in the survey of which 8,414 or 91.5% provided data. These households contained 18,694 persons aged 15 years and over, each of whom supplied some data.

Collection method

6. Personal interviews by trained interviewers were used to collect the information. Because the survey dealt with matters of a personal nature it was important to attempt to interview every respondent. In cases where it was not possible for the interviewer to speak to an individual personally, a responsible adult from the same dwelling was asked the questions on behalf of the absent person.

7. Interviewing was conducted over a three month period from March to May 1975.

Definitions

8. A *firearm* was defined as one of the following: rifle, shotgun, combination rifle-shotgun, air rifle, pistol or revolver. Starting pistols were not considered firearms for the purposes of this survey.

9. A *firearm owner* was a person who owned or normally possessed a firearm. Persons borrowing firearms for a period of less than three months were not included as firearm owners. In cases of joint ownership of a firearm the owner was taken, for the purpose of the survey, as the person who most often used the firearm. Policemen and security employees who did not own their firearms but retained them when off duty were considered to be firearm owners.

10. A *firearm in working order* was one that could be readily fired. Firearms not falling into this category had to be permanently not in working order. If only the bolt was removed from the firearm for safety reasons it was considered to be in working order. The survey categorised owners of firearms into those with at least one firearm in working order and those with no firearms in working order, but the survey methodology did not allow for the actual numbers of working and non-working firearms to be determined. (Table 5 provides details of the total number of firearms.)

11. For each owner of working firearms, a "safety" classification has been derived with three categories. The function of this classification is to provide an indication of the relative degree of safety consciousness of owners of firearms in storing their firearms when not in use. No attempt was made to ascertain the safety consciousness of owners of working firearms in the actual use of their firearms. The categories are defined as follows:

Category 1: This category includes firearm owners who indicated the greatest degree of safety consciousness in storing their firearms. These owners had some training in the use of firearms and kept their firearms in a locked wardrobe, cupboard, box, drawer, case or safe, securely fixed to the wall or at another address. (Firearms stored at another address were assumed to be safely kept.)

Category 2: This comprises those firearm owners who met some but not all of the criteria for category 1. They kept their firearms out of sight in a wardrobe, cupboard, box, drawer, case or safe or securely fixed to the wall. No ammunition is kept with the firearms unless the firearms are locked away.

Category 3: This category includes all firearm owners who do not fall into Category 1 or 2. They kept their firearms in one of the following ways:

- in a motor vehicle or did not know the whereabouts of the firearm.
- mounted on the wall but not securely fixed.
- in an easily accessible place in the house (i.e. in places such as under bed, against wall, in corner).
- in an unlocked wardrobe, cupboard, box, drawer, case or safe and ammunition was kept with the firearm.

12. The main components of *income* are:

- (a) wages and salaries (on a last pay basis). Details for (g) below were not collected for wage and salary earners.
- (b) Government benefits
- (c) Superannuation
- (d) Workers' compensation
- (e) Maintenance/alimony
- (f) Rent
- (g) Other income — income from all sources other than (a) — (f) (including income from self-employment). Business income was collected in respect of the 1973-74 financial year.

Income prior to taxation and other deductions was converted to a weekly basis. Gross income for each individual was derived by summing the weekly equivalents from each of the above sources.

13. Persons were in the *labour force* if they had a job or were actively looking for work during the week prior to the interview.

14. *Capital cities* were defined as the six State Capital City Statistical Divisions as delimited for purposes of the 1971 Census of Population and Housing.

15. *Other urban areas* were defined as all towns and urban centres with a population of more than 500 persons (excluding the capital cities) as delimited for purposes of the 1971 Census of Population and Housing.

Sampling and non-sampling errors

16. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a collection based on the whole population using the same questionnaires and procedures. These differences are called sampling errors. One measure of the sampling error of an estimate is the standard error percent (i.e. the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate). Appendix 1 provides estimates of the standard error percents for data contained in this publication, together with an explanation of how to interpret them.

17. In addition to sampling errors, the estimates are subject to the following types of non-sampling errors:

- (a) errors in reporting (e.g. because some answers were based on memory, or because of misunderstanding or unwillingness of the respondent to reveal all details);
- (b) biases caused by differences which may have existed in the characteristics of respondent and non-respondent persons within the scope of the survey;
- (c) errors arising during processing (e.g. coding, data recording).

Considerable effort was made to minimize these types of errors by training and supervision of interviewers and extensive editing and checking of the data. In addition an Optical Mark reader was used to transfer the data into computer readable format thus minimising transcription errors.

Related publications

18. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- .. Not applicable
- * Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. (See appendix 1).
- n.e.c. Not elsewhere classified

19. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Rates of firearm ownership

20. The following table shows the rates of ownership of one or more working firearms per thousand persons aged 15 years and over in the capital cities and other urban areas of each State.

NUMBER OF OWNERS OF WORKING FIREARMS (a) PER THOUSAND PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER :
CAPITAL CITY AND OTHER URBAN AREAS, STATE

	Capital city (b)						All capital cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Number of owners of working firearms per thousand persons (e)	75.2	85.7	88.0	91.9	60.6	120.0	81.3
	Other urban areas (b)						
	N.S.W. (d)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
Number of owners of working firearms per thousand persons (e)	124.1	150.7	131.9	139.1	141.3	140.0	133.2
	States (c)						
	N.S.W. (d)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
Number of owners of working firearms per thousand persons (e)	92.2	98.5	107.3	99.2	76.6	130.3	96.5

(a) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (b) See paragraphs 14 and 15. (c) Includes capital cities and other urban areas only. (d) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (e) Excludes persons who did not respond to the question on firearm ownership.

21. There is a higher rate of firearm ownership in the other urban areas (133.2 per thousand) compared with capital cities (81.3 per thousand) and this difference is evident in all States. It should be noted that rural areas and the Northern Territory were not included in the survey and these areas may have different ownership rates from the rest of Australia. The rate of firearm ownership across capital cities varies from 120.0 per thousand persons in Hobart to 60.6 per thousand in Perth. For other urban areas the differences are not as marked as those for capital cities with Victoria having the highest rate of firearm ownership, at 150.7 per thousand and New South Wales the lowest at 124.1 per thousand.

22. The number of owners of working firearms was more than 20 times higher for males than females (187.4 per thousand males and 9.3 per thousand females) (see table 2). Although some of this difference would be due to the fact that joint ownership of firearms was not allowed in the survey, the overwhelming number of firearm owners are male.

23. The comments which follow relate to males, to avoid highlighting features that may largely reflect differences in the proportion of males to females in a particular category. The level of firearm ownership by males rises from 13.5 percent in the 15 and under 20 year age group to over 20 percent in each of the age groups between 20 and 50 years, then falls to 13.7 percent in the 60 years and over age group.

NUMBER OF MALE OWNERS OF WORKING FIREARMS (a) PER THOUSAND MALES AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER : AGE

	Age (years)							Total
	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 30	30 and under 40	40 and under 50	50 and under 60	60 and over	
Number of male owners of working firearms per thousand males (b)	135.2	200.1	215.3	222.7	217.1	169.3	136.7	187.4

(a) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (b) Excludes those males who did not respond to the question on firearm ownership.

24. The following table shows the rate of firearm ownership by marital status of males. It can be seen from the table that males who were married had the highest rate of firearm ownership.

**NUMBER OF MALE OWNERS OF WORKING FIREARMS (a) PER THOUSAND MALES
AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER : MARITAL STATUS**

	<i>Marital Status</i>				
	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Now married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Separated/Divorced</i>	<i>Total (b)</i>
Number of owners of working firearms per thousand males (c)	147.5	207.4	90.0	168.7	187.4

(a) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (b) Includes not stated for marital status. (c) Excludes those males who did not respond to the question on firearm ownership.

25. Males born in Australia have a higher firearm ownership rate than those born outside Australia (206.9 and 139.4 per thousand respectively). For those born outside Australia those born in the main English speaking countries had a lower firearm ownership rate than those born in other countries. (112.5 per thousand and 162.4 per thousand respectively).

26. The following table shows the rate of firearm ownership for males for different categories of highest educational qualifications obtained. It can be seen that those males with trade, technical or other qualifications (not tertiary) have the highest firearm ownership rate.

**NUMBER OF MALE OWNERS OF WORKING FIREARMS (a) PER THOUSAND MALES AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER :
HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OBTAINED**

	<i>Highest educational qualification obtained</i>					
	<i>Still at school</i>	<i>Never attended school or left under 15 years</i>	<i>Left school 15 years or over</i>	<i>Trade, technical or other qualification (b)</i>	<i>Tertiary (c)</i>	<i>Total (d)</i>
Number of male owners of working firearms per thousand males (e)	114.0	183.3	177.7	226.5	149.9	187.4

(a) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (b) Any post school qualification other than tertiary qualifications. (c) Bachelor or higher degrees, qualifications obtained following substantial advanced study beyond matriculation conferred by institutions and professional associations. (d) Includes males whose highest educational qualification was not stated. (e) Excludes those males who did not respond to the question on firearm ownership.

27. The following table shows the rate of firearm ownership of males for different occupational categories. It can be seen that the highest rate of firearm ownership is for the group farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber-getters, miners, quarrymen and related workers. It should be noted, however, that rural areas were excluded from the survey.

NUMBER OF MALE OWNERS OF WORKING FIREARMS (a) PER THOUSAND MALES AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER : OCCUPATION

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Number of male owners of working firearms per thousand males (c)</i>
Professional, technical, administrative, executive, managerial and related workers	179.3
Clerical workers	163.8
Sales workers	176.2
Farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber-getters, miners, quarrymen and related workers	351.9
Workers in transport and communication	207.7
Tradesmen, production process-workers and labourers	212.9
Service, sport and recreation workers	215.7
Members of armed services	194.6
Not in the labour force	113.5
Total (b)	187.4

(a) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (b) Includes males whose occupation was not stated. (c) Excludes those males who did not respond to the question on firearm ownership.

Numbers of firearms

28. Every person who was a firearm owner, whether firearms were in working order or not, provided information on the type and number of firearms possessed (see tables 4 and 5). As can be seen from the following table Tasmania had the largest numbers of firearms per thousand persons (230.4 firearms per thousand persons) and Western Australia the lowest (138.6 firearms per thousand persons). Overall, the average number of firearms per owner was 1.6 and all States were within 0.2 of this average. The number of firearms per owner tended to be higher in other urban areas than in capital cities in all States.

**NUMBER OF FIREARMS PER THOUSAND PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER :
CAPITAL CITY AND OTHER URBAN AREAS, STATE**

	<i>Capital city (a)</i>						<i>All capital cities</i>
	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	
Number of firearms per thousand persons (d)	150.3	122.0	167.8	146.9	105.3	200.9	139.6
	<i>Other urban areas (a)</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<i>N.S.W. (c)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	
Number of firearms per thousand persons (d)	252.4	230.5	225.0	249.6	272.8	260.6	243.8
	<i>States (b)</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<i>N.S.W. (c)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	
Number of firearms per thousand persons (d)	185.9	143.5	193.1	163.1	138.6	230.4	170.2

(a) See paragraphs 14 and 15. (b) Includes capital cities and other urban areas only. (c) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Excludes persons who did not respond to the question on firearm ownership.

Aquisition, use and keeping of firearms

29. The majority of owners of firearms purchased at least one firearm from a dealer (59.2 per cent). 23.6 per cent of owners of firearms aquired at least one firearm as a result of a gift or bequest and 21.1 per cent of owners of firearms purchased at least one firearm from a person other than a dealer.

30. Sport was the main reason given for owning or possessing a firearm with 69.4 per cent of owners giving this reason.

31. The most common place for keeping a firearm was in the bedroom with 62.4 per cent of owners normally keeping firearms in this room (see table 6). 16.1 per cent kept firearms in other rooms of the house. Almost 50% of owners in each State reported keeping firearms in a wardrobe or cupboard inside their house (see table 6).

32. 24.7 per cent of owners of firearms who kept firearms inside their house usually locked those firearms in a wardrobe, cupboard, box, drawer or case.

33. Over two-thirds of firearm owners in all States indicated that they had some ammunition. Of these, less than 25 per cent indicated that they kept this ammunition with the firearms (see table 6).

34. Approximately 60 per cent of firearm owners received their first firearm before they were 19 years of age (see table 6).

Safety consciousness in storing firearms

35. The following table shows for capital cities and other urban areas in each State the relative safety consciousness of owners of working firearms in the storing of their firearms. Category 1 includes owners of firearms who have indicated the greatest degree of safety consciousness in storing their firearms while categories 2 and 3 indicate a decreasing degree of safety consciousness in the storing of firearms. See paragraph 11 for definition of these categories.

**PERCENTAGES OF PERSONS OWNING OR POSSESSING WORKING FIREARMS (a) : SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS (b) OF OWNERS IN
STORING THEIR FIREARMS, CAPITAL CITY AND OTHER URBAN AREAS, STATE**

<i>Categories of safe keeping of firearms</i>	<i>Capital cities (c)</i>						<i>All Capital Cities</i>
	<i>Sydney</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>Hobart</i>	
	Per cent						
Category 1	31.7	33.7	28.9	30.8	31.8	26.8	31.8
Category 2	42.5	44.2	35.6	42.6	46.7	50.7	42.8
Category 3	19.0	17.8	29.1	22.3	19.0	17.4	20.2
Unable to determine	6.8	4.3	6.5	*	*	*	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	<i>Other Urban (c)</i>						
	<i>N.S. W. (e)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Per cent						
Category 1	29.7	28.8	28.0	20.0	30.6	35.8	29.0
Category 2	43.9	50.4	39.6	33.9	49.5	39.0	43.9
Category 3	21.2	19.9	27.9	37.6	*	22.0	22.9
Unable to determine	5.3	*	4.7	*	*	*	4.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	<i>States (d)</i>						
	<i>N.S. W. (e)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Per cent						
Category 1	30.8	32.2	28.3	28.4	31.4	31.5	30.6
Category 2	43.1	46.1	37.7	40.7	47.7	44.3	43.2
Category 3	20.0	18.4	28.4	25.6	17.8	20.1	21.3
Unable to determine	6.1	3.3	5.5	5.3	*	*	4.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes those owners who did not know or did not state whether their firearms were in working order. (b) For definition of categories of "safety" see paragraph 11. (c) See paragraphs 14 and 15. (d) Includes capital cities and other urban areas only. (e) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

36. In most areas at least 20 per cent of firearm owners kept their firearms in easily accessible places or kept ammunition with their firearms without keeping them in a secure place (Category 3). Category 1 shows the percentage of owners who kept their firearms locked away and who had some training in the use of firearms. For most areas the percentage of owners in this category was close to 30 per cent with South Australian other urban areas (20.0 per cent) and Hobart (26.8 per cent) being the exceptions.

37. It can be seen from the table below that members of a shooters association, gun or rifle club tended to keep their firearms more securely than those owners who did not belong to an association or club. It should be noted that only 6 per cent of owners were members of a shooters' association, gun or rifle club.

**PERCENTAGE OF OWNERS OF WORKING FIREARMS (a) : SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS (b) OF OWNERS IN STORING THEIR
FIREARMS BY WHETHER A MEMBER OF A SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION, GUN OR RIFLE CLUB**

	<i>Categories of safe keeping of firearms</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Category 1</i>	<i>Category 2</i>	<i>Category 3</i>	<i>Unable to determine</i>	
	Per cent				
Member of an association or club	44.5	24.7	16.2	14.7	100.0
Not a member of an association or club	29.9	44.7	21.8	3.6	100.0

(a) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (b) For definition of categories of "safety" see paragraph 11.

38. The following table shows for each State the percentage of owners of working firearms who had or had not been trained to handle firearms and the type of training received. One quarter of owners of working firearms had received no training in the use of firearms (25.2%). 37.9 per cent received training in the armed forces or cadets and 28.7 per cent from a friend or relative. Altogether 73.5 per cent had received training of some kind.

PERCENTAGE OF OWNERS OF WORKING FIREARMS (a) : TYPE OF TRAINING RECEIVED, STATE

Type of training received	N.S. W. (b)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
Per cent							
Armed forces or cadets	35.5	37.0	39.6	35.0	49.1	48.8	37.9
Police force	4.3	*	3.6	*	*	*	3.1
Gun or rifle club	9.6	7.9	6.6	7.6	12.0	9.4	8.6
Friend or relation	26.8	34.8	22.1	33.4	21.1	26.9	28.7
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.8
Total received training (c)	69.9	78.6	69.6	72.0	78.1	79.8	73.5
No training received	28.1	21.2	27.8	26.6	21.7	19.5	25.2
Total (d)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes those owners who did not know or did not state whether their firearms were in working order. (b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (c) The sum of the components is higher than the total because owners could receive more than one type of training. (d) Includes those owners who did not state whether they had received training in the use of firearms.

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) : FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND WHETHER FIREARMS WORK (b),
CAPITAL CITY AND OTHER URBAN AREAS, STATE
(^c000)

Firearm ownership	Capital city (c)						All Capital Cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Own firearms							
At least one firearm in working order	141.9	150.7	54.2	57.6	32.1	13.7	450.1
Own firearms, none in working order	16.9	12.2	9.6	6.1	*	*	46.8
Own firearms, don't know or not stated whether in working order	5.8	6.0	*	*	*	*	13.9
Total owners of firearms	164.6	168.8	65.0	64.6	33.3	14.5	510.8
Do not own firearms	1,800.6	1,659.5	564.9	571.7	496.7	100.5	5,193.9
Not stated	78.4	50.8	8.0	7.8	8.5	*	154.4
Total persons	2,043.7	1,879.1	637.9	644.1	538.5	115.9	5,859.1
Other urban areas (c)							
	N.S.W. (e)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
Own firearms							
At least one firearm in working order	127.3	67.2	64.1	16.5	18.3	15.7	309.2
Own firearms, none in working order	8.6	*	6.1	*	*	*	21.8
Own firearms, don't know or not stated whether in working order	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.1
Total owners of firearms	139.5	71.9	71.8	17.9	19.1	16.9	337.1
Do not own firearms	915.7	377.8	426.4	100.6	112.6	96.7	2,029.8
Not stated	27.3	17.5	6.6	*	*	1.9	58.3
Total persons	1,082.4	467.3	504.8	120.9	134.4	115.5	2,425.2
State (d)							
	N.S.W. (e)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
Own firearms							
At least one firearm in working order	269.2	217.9	118.3	74.1	50.4	29.4	759.3
Own firearms, none in working order	25.6	16.3	15.7	7.6	*	1.7	68.6
Own firearms, don't know or not stated whether in working order	9.2	6.5	*	*	*	*	20.0
Total owners of firearms	304.0	240.7	136.8	82.5	52.4	31.5	847.9
Do not own firearms	2,716.3	2,037.3	991.3	672.3	609.2	197.2	7,223.7
Not stated	105.7	68.3	14.5	10.1	11.3	2.7	212.7
Total persons	3,126.0	2,346.4	1,142.7	764.9	672.9	231.4	8,284.3

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (c) See paragraph 14 and 15. (d) Capital cities and other urban areas only. (e) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) : FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND WHETHER FIREARMS WORK (b)
BY CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS
(^{'000})

Characteristics of persons	Own firearms			Do not own firearms	Not Stated	Total
	At least one firearm in working order	No firearms in working order	Total owners of firearms (b)			
Sex						
Male	724.9	60.5	801.4	3,152.2	131.3	4,084.9
Female	34.4	8.1	46.5	4,071.5	81.4	4,199.4
Total	759.3	68.6	847.9	7,223.7	212.7	8,284.3
Age (years)						
15 and under 20	68.9	7.8	77.1	909.4	29.1	1,015.7
20 and under 25	94.7	7.0	102.8	828.8	21.1	952.6
25 and under 30	104.9	7.3	114.0	821.3	22.4	957.7
30 and under 40	178.2	15.6	197.1	1,325.8	26.8	1,549.6
40 and under 50	140.1	14.4	160.2	1,091.2	45.9	1,297.3
50 and under 60	93.4	9.2	104.3	983.6	38.0	1,125.9
60 and over	79.1	7.3	92.4	1,263.6	29.5	1,385.4
Total	759.3	68.6	847.9	7,223.7	212.7	8,284.3
Marital status						
Never married	160.5	13.5	177.4	1,690.9	4.2	1,872.5
Now married	556.8	49.8	618.8	4,739.7	14.1	5,372.7
Widowed	14.6	*	21.4	505.3	*	527.6
Separated/Divorced	25.9	*	28.1	267.5	*	296.4
Not stated	*	*	*	20.3	192.5	215.0
Total	759.3	68.6	847.9	7,223.7	212.7	8,284.3
Country of birth						
Born in Australia	600.8	57.0	674.4	5,217.8	146.3	6,038.5
Main English speaking countries (c)	58.4	6.6	67.3	953.9	23.1	1,044.3
Other countries (d)	99.8	5.0	105.8	1,036.4	34.4	1,176.6
Not stated	*	*	*	15.6	9.0	25.0
Total	759.3	68.6	847.9	7,223.7	212.7	8,284.3
Labour force status						
Employed full-time (e)	552.5	45.4	609.9	3,006.7	*	3,620.1
Employed part-time (f)	90.2	9.1	102.1	1,120.4	*	1,223.1
Unemployed (g)	13.9	*	14.4	159.1	*	173.7
Not in the labour force (h)	91.5	12.1	108.2	2,820.1	4.2	2,932.5
Not stated	11.2	*	13.3	117.4	204.2	334.9
Total	759.3	68.6	847.9	7,223.7	212.7	8,284.3
Highest educational qualification obtained						
Still at school	21.7	*	24.1	332.1	*	356.8
Never attended school or left under 15 years	152.7	11.4	169.3	1,819.5	5.8	1,994.6
Left school 15 years and over	253.6	21.8	278.1	2,734.7	5.2	3,017.9
Trade, technical or other qualification (i)	269.3	23.6	300.3	1,686.5	*	1,990.3
Tertiary (j)	55.2	8.8	67.9	558.9	*	627.0
Not stated	6.9	*	8.3	92.0	197.5	297.7
Total	759.3	68.6	847.9	7,223.7	212.7	8,284.3

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) : FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND WHETHER FIREARMS WORK (b)
BY CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS – *continued*
(^c000)

Characteristics of persons	Own firearms			Do not own firearms	Not stated	Total
	At least one firearm in working order	No firearms in working order	Total owners of firearms (b)			
Occupation						
Professional, technical, administrative, executive, managerial and related workers	120.2	11.4	137.3	859.4	*	997.5
Clerical workers	56.5	7.2	64.0	847.9	*	912.6
Sales workers	38.2	4.7	44.7	412.1	*	458.0
Farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber-getters, miners, quarrymen and related workers	45.2	*	47.9	106.1	*	154.0
Workers in transport and communication	50.9	*	57.4	245.2	*	302.8
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	302.9	22.6	329.0	1,350.0	*	1,680.9
Service, sport and recreation workers	37.7	*	40.8	442.2	*	483.6
Members of armed services	5.8	*	6.6	23.9	*	30.5
Not in the labour force	91.5	12.1	108.2	2,820.1	4.2	2,932.5
Not stated	10.4	*	11.9	116.7	203.3	331.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>759.3</i>	<i>68.6</i>	<i>847.9</i>	<i>7,223.7</i>	<i>212.7</i>	<i>8,284.3</i>
Gross weekly income (k)						
Under \$10	26.6	4.3	31.1	1,297.4	*	1,329.1
\$10 and under \$40	44.6	4.4	50.0	1,099.4	*	1,149.6
\$40 and under \$80	73.3	7.8	83.1	850.8	*	935.4
\$80 and under \$120	138.2	9.6	149.8	1,121.3	*	1,271.6
\$120 and under \$160	168.4	14.2	185.7	974.0	*	1,159.7
\$160 and under \$200	110.6	12.2	123.7	446.8	*	570.6
\$200 or more	109.1	10.0	123.9	444.1	*	568.0
Not stated	88.5	6.0	100.6	989.9	209.8	1,300.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>759.3</i>	<i>68.6</i>	<i>847.9</i>	<i>7,223.7</i>	<i>212.7</i>	<i>8,284.3</i>

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (c) United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, United States of America, South Africa and New Zealand. (d) This grouping does not necessarily indicate an inability to communicate in English. (e) Worked for 35 hours or more last week in all jobs (includes employees and self-employed persons). (f) Worked for less than 35 hours last week in all jobs (includes employees and self-employed persons). (g) Includes persons not working but actively looking for work. (h) Includes housewives, persons permanently unable to work, retired, voluntarily idle or still at school. (i) Any post school qualification other than tertiary qualifications. (j) Bachelor and higher degrees, qualifications obtained following substantial advanced study beyond matriculation conferred by institutions and professional associations. (k) See paragraph 12 for definition of gross income.

TABLE 3. NUMBER OF MALES (a) : FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND WHETHER FIREARMS WORK (b)
BY CHARACTERISTICS OF MALES
(^{'000})

Characteristics of males	Own firearms			Do not own firearms	Not stated	Total
	At least one firearm in working order	No firearms in working order	Total owners of firearms (b)			
Age (years)						
15 and under 20	68.1	7.3	75.7	430.1	17.6	523.4
20 and under 25	92.3	6.6	99.9	366.4	11.8	478.1
25 and under 30	96.9	4.9	103.0	352.6	15.0	470.6
30 and under 40	170.7	14.8	188.4	591.0	18.2	797.6
40 and under 50	133.4	12.7	151.2	486.8	26.8	664.9
50 and under 60	88.4	8.6	98.8	434.0	25.5	558.3
60 and over	75.2	5.7	84.4	491.3	16.4	592.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>724.9</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>801.4</i>	<i>3,152.2</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>4,084.9</i>
Marital status						
Never married	156.2	12.7	171.5	905.2	*	1,078.8
Now married	540.4	44.1	596.2	2,066.0	8.2	2,670.4
Widowed	6.4	*	9.3	74.1	*	83.3
Separated/Divorced	20.3	*	22.1	101.2	*	124.0
Not stated	*	*	*	5.7	120.4	128.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>724.9</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>801.4</i>	<i>3,152.2</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>4,084.9</i>
Country of birth						
Born in Australia	571.3	51.3	635.8	2,190.0	92.0	2,917.7
Main English speaking countries (c)	56.3	5.3	63.4	453.1	16.6	533.0
Other countries (d)	96.9	*	101.8	500.9	17.7	620.4
Not stated	*	*	*	8.2	5.1	13.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>724.9</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>801.4</i>	<i>3,152.2</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>4,084.9</i>
Labour force status						
Employed full-time (e)	543.6	44.8	600.2	2,030.6	*	2,633.1
Employed part-time (f)	82.9	6.8	91.8	394.9	*	486.7
Unemployed (g)	13.2	*	13.2	71.5	*	84.7
Not in the labour force (h)	74.5	7.5	83.5	583.4	*	668.3
Not stated	10.6	*	12.7	71.8	127.6	212.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>724.9</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>801.4</i>	<i>3,152.2</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>4,084.9</i>
Highest educational qualification obtained						
Still at school	21.5	*	23.4	166.1	*	190.1
Never attended school or left under 15 years	144.3	10.4	157.7	646.1	*	806.0
Left school 15 years or over	236.4	19.2	258.0	1,086.1	*	1,345.6
Trade, technical or other qualifications (i)	261.6	20.9	289.3	895.6	*	1,186.9
Tertiary (j)	54.5	7.5	65.0	318.5	*	383.7
Not stated	6.6	*	8.0	39.8	124.8	172.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>724.9</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>801.4</i>	<i>3,152.2</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>4,084.9</i>

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 3. NUMBER OF MALES (a) : FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND WHETHER FIREARMS WORK (b)
BY CHARACTERISTICS OF MALES – *continued*
(⁰000)

Characteristics of males	Own firearms			Do not own firearms	Not stated	Total
	At least one firearm in working order	No firearms in working order	Total owners of firearms (b)			
Occupation						
Professional, technical, administrative, executive-managerial and related workers	117.4	10.8	133.0	548.8	*	682.5
Clerical workers	50.6	6.1	57.0	253.8	*	310.8
Sales workers	35.8	4.7	42.3	171.2	*	213.4
Farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber-getters, miners, quarrymen and related workers	44.9	*	47.7	81.3	*	129.0
Workers in transport and communication	50.5	*	57.0	201.5	*	258.7
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c.	302.0	21.1	326.7	1,108.6	*	1,437.0
Service, sport and recreation workers	34.0	*	37.1	121.8	*	159.5
Members of armed services	5.8	*	6.6	23.2	*	29.8
Not in the labour force	74.5	7.5	83.5	583.4	*	668.3
Not stated	9.3	*	10.5	58.6	126.6	195.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>724.9</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>801.4</i>	<i>3,152.2</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>4,084.9</i>
Gross weekly income (k)						
Under \$10	21.4	*	24.1	179.9	*	204.7
\$10 and under \$40	39.0	*	42.1	287.5	*	329.5
\$40 and under \$80	64.9	5.6	71.5	257.3	*	328.8
\$80 and under \$120	132.3	8.5	142.8	516.5	*	659.9
\$120 and under \$160	163.6	13.7	180.3	716.9	*	897.2
\$160 ad under \$200	110.2	11.6	122.3	358.2	*	480.7
\$200 or more	108.6	10.0	123.3	393.5	*	516.8
Not stated	85.1	5.7	95.0	442.3	130.0	667.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>724.9</i>	<i>60.5</i>	<i>801.4</i>	<i>3,152.2</i>	<i>131.3</i>	<i>4,084.9</i>

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (c) United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, United States of America, South Africa and New Zealand. (d) This grouping does not necessarily indicate an inability to communicate in English. (e) Worked for 35 hours or more last week in all jobs (includes employees and self-employed persons). (f) Worked for less than 35 hours last week in all jobs (includes employees and self-employed persons). (g) Includes not working but actively looking for work. (h) Includes persons permanently unable to work, retired, voluntarily idle or still at school. (i) Any post school qualifications other than tertiary qualifications. (j) Bachelor and higher degrees, qualifications obtained following substantial advanced study beyond matriculation conferred by institutions and professional associations. (k) See paragraph 12 for definition of gross income.

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING FIREARMS (b) : TYPE OF FIREARM,
CAPITAL CITY AND OTHER URBAN AREAS, STATE
(^{'000})

Type of firearms	Capital city (c)						All Capital Cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Rifles	122.6	105.1	50.2	49.8	26.2	8.9	362.9
Shotguns/combo rifle-shotguns	42.1	71.6	11.9	12.8	12.4	9.1	160.0
Air rifles	29.0	19.9	10.5	8.3	3.8	*	72.7
Pistols or revolvers	9.9	6.9	3.6	3.1	*	*	25.2
Total number of owners (d)	164.6	168.8	65.0	64.6	33.3	14.5	510.8
Type of firearms	Other urban areas (c)						Total
	N.S.W. (f)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	
Rifles	105.3	45.4	56.7	13.9	14.3	12.7	248.3
Shotguns/combo rifle-shotguns	53.2	40.0	19.9	6.9	8.0	8.6	136.6
Air rifles	13.6	5.3	8.6	*	*	1.5	33.2
Pistols or revolvers	5.9	*	*	*	*	*	10.6
Total number of owners (d)	139.5	71.9	71.8	17.9	19.1	16.9	337.1
Type of firearms	State (e)						Total
	N.S.W. (f)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	
Rifles	227.9	150.6	106.8	63.8	40.5	21.6	611.3
Shotguns/combo rifle-shotguns	95.4	111.6	31.8	19.7	20.4	17.7	296.5
Air rifles	42.5	25.2	19.0	10.5	5.9	2.7	105.9
Pistols or revolvers	15.9	9.2	4.8	3.3	*	*	35.9
Total number of owners (d)	304.0	240.7	136.8	82.5	52.4	31.5	847.9

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes working and non-working firearms (c) See paragraph 14 and 15. (d) The sum of components is usually higher than the number of owners because an owner can own more than one type of firearm. (e) Capital cities and other urban areas only. (f) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF FIREARMS (a) : TYPE OF FIREARM,
CAPITAL CITY AND OTHER URBAN AREAS, STATE
(^{'000})

Type of firearm	Capital city (b)						All Capital Cities
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Rifles	200.8	117.8	78.1	66.0	32.8	11.2	506.7
Shotguns/combination rifle-shotguns	51.3	76.8	12.3	16.1	15.7	10.5	182.7
Air rifles	31.4	20.0	11.3	8.0	*	*	76.5
Pistols or revolvers	11.9	8.5	*	*	*	*	30.7
Total number of firearms	295.3	223.1	105.7	93.5	55.8	23.1	796.5
Type of firearm	Other urban areas (b)						Total
	N.S.W. (d)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	
Rifles	154.2	52.7	77.3	18.6	21.3	15.7	339.8
Shotguns/combination rifle-shotguns	61.6	43.4	25.4	8.5	11.3	11.6	161.8
Air rifles	27.7	*	8.2	*	*	*	47.8
Pistols or revolvers	22.7	*	*	*	*	*	27.7
Total number of firearms	266.3	103.7	112.1	29.6	35.9	29.6	577.1
Type of firearm	State (c)						Total
	N.S.W. (d)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	
Rifles	355.0	170.5	155.4	84.6	54.1	26.9	846.4
Shotguns/combination rifle shotguns	112.9	120.2	37.7	24.6	27.0	22.1	344.5
Air rifles	59.0	25.3	19.5	10.3	7.1	3.1	124.3
Pistols or revolvers	34.6	10.8	5.2	*	*	*	58.4
Total number of firearms	561.5	326.8	217.8	123.1	91.7	52.7	1,373.7

(a) Includes working and non-working firearms. (b) See paragraph 14 and 15. (c) Capital cities and other urban areas only. (d) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 6. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING WORKING FIREARMS (b) : STATE (c)
AND CHARACTERISTICS OF FIREARM OWNERSHIP
(^{'000})

<i>Characteristics of firearm ownership</i>	<i>N.S.W. (d)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Total</i>
How firearms obtained							
Gift or bequest	66.8	50.8	26.9	19.7	10.4	9.1	183.8
Purchased from dealer	162.3	132.0	72.4	44.5	33.0	17.1	461.4
Purchased from person other than dealer	57.8	46.3	25.6	16.8	10.7	7.4	164.7
Other (e) or don't know	31.0	12.6	8.0	3.6	*	1.5	58.8
<i>Total (f)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Reason for having firearms							
Souvenir/antique collection	21.0	12.4	9.6	3.6	*	1.5	50.5
Sport	185.0	173.0	68.7	54.4	34.2	25.8	541.1
Protection of self or household	26.8	12.2	15.3	6.6	3.0	*	64.1
Protection of business or part of business or job	22.8	*	6.8	4.1	6.1	*	45.1
Other (g) or don't know	49.4	34.3	33.3	12.2	10.0	2.6	141.8
<i>Total (f)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Where firearms are normally kept							
Garage or shed	25.9	18.1	5.9	9.5	*	3.9	65.9
Storeroom	14.6	9.2	9.2	*	*	2.0	38.3
Bedroom	168.0	142.1	74.7	48.7	36.1	16.4	486.0
Kitchen, lounge/living room or elsewhere in house	47.3	35.4	19.8	11.0	6.8	5.3	125.6
Other dwelling, motor vehicle, other, don't know	31.2	23.6	15.0	7.0	3.5	2.7	83.0
<i>Total (f)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Where in the room the firearms are normally kept (h)							
Wardrobe/cupboard	138.2	128.2	58.6	40.7	32.2	17.1	415.0
Box/drawer/case/safe	31.7	29.9	9.5	7.6	4.6	2.4	85.8
Lying about the house	27.9	12.6	22.2	11.1	4.0	1.9	79.6
Mounted on wall	30.1	12.0	10.4	*	*	2.1	60.2
Other	29.9	23.6	9.8	8.1	5.6	4.0	81.0
<i>Total (f)</i>	<i>246.6</i>	<i>201.9</i>	<i>108.1</i>	<i>68.3</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>27.0</i>	<i>699.2</i>
Whether firearms are locked away (i)							
Firearms locked away	62.8	49.7	23.2	18.2	12.6	6.0	172.5
Firearms not locked away	95.9	101.0	42.1	27.5	23.3	13.0	302.7
<i>Total (j)</i>	<i>163.6</i>	<i>157.1</i>	<i>66.6</i>	<i>46.5</i>	<i>35.9</i>	<i>19.8</i>	<i>489.5</i>
Amount of ammunition kept							
No ammunition	78.4	54.2	36.5	19.3	12.7	6.7	207.9
1 - 9 rounds	25.3	26.7	11.0	4.7	4.3	2.2	74.2
10 - 49 rounds	51.3	48.6	27.7	16.4	12.8	9.8	166.6
50 - 99 rounds	46.0	33.9	15.1	11.6	7.1	4.1	117.8
100 rounds or more	73.2	57.5	29.2	21.8	13.6	5.8	201.1
<i>Total (j)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 6. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING WORKING FIREARMS (b) : STATE (c)
BY CHARACTERISTICS OF FIREARM OWNERSHIP — continued
(⁰⁰⁰)

<i>Characteristics of firearm ownership</i>	<i>N.S.W. (d)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whether ammunition kept with firearms							
Ammunition kept with firearms	47.8	39.6	20.4	13.7	9.3	5.4	136.2
Ammunition not kept with firearms	146.1	127.1	61.4	40.5	28.5	16.9	420.4
No ammunition	78.4	54.2	36.5	19.3	12.7	6.7	207.9
<i>Total (j)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Age when first firearm obtained							
Under 19 years	175.9	127.0	78.1	41.9	27.1	20.0	469.9
19 years and under 26 years	61.7	57.3	26.9	17.8	13.4	5.0	182.1
26 years and over	34.0	32.1	13.8	13.0	9.9	3.6	106.4
<i>Total (j)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Member of shooters association, gun or rifle club							
Is a member	22.5	11.0	6.0	3.9	*	1.9	47.0
Is not a member	252.2	211.7	114.3	70.7	48.9	27.7	725.5
<i>Total (j)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Type of training received							
Armed forces or cadets	98.8	83.1	47.9	26.2	24.9	14.5	295.4
Police force	11.9	*	4.3	*	*	*	24.3
Gun or rifle club	26.7	17.7	8.0	5.7	6.1	2.8	66.9
Friend or relation	74.7	78.1	26.8	25.0	10.7	8.0	223.3
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	14.2
Total received training (f)	194.5	176.4	84.3	53.9	39.6	23.7	572.5
No training received	78.3	47.5	33.7	19.9	11.0	5.8	196.3
<i>Total (j)</i>	<i>278.4</i>	<i>224.4</i>	<i>121.1</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>779.3</i>

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (c) Capital cities and other urban areas only. (d) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (e) Includes "War souvenir", "On loan/minding", "Brought home from work" and "Other". (f) The sum of components is usually higher than the total because owners could give more than one response for this question. (g) Includes "Minding", "Other reasons" and "No specific reason". (h) Only asked of those owners who kept their firearms in the garage or shed, storeroom, bedroom, kitchen, lounge/living room or elsewhere in the dwelling. (i) Only asked of those owners who kept their firearms in a wardrobe, cupboard, box, drawer or case inside their dwelling. (j) Includes those owners who did not know or did not respond to this question.

TABLE 7. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING WORKING FIREARMS (b) : SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS (c) OF OWNERS
IN STORING THEIR FIREARMS, CAPITAL CITIES AND OTHER URBAN AREAS, STATE
(^{'000})

Categories of safe keeping of firearms	Capital Cities (d)						Total
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	
Category 1	46.8	52.7	16.0	18.0	10.2	3.7	147.4
Category 2	62.7	69.2	19.7	24.9	15.0	7.0	198.6
Category 3	28.1	27.9	16.1	13.0	6.1	2.4	93.6
Unable to determine	10.0	6.7	3.6	*	*	*	24.4
Total	147.7	156.6	55.4	58.4	32.1	13.8	464.0
Categories of safe keeping of firearms	Other urban areas (d)						Total
	N.S.W. (f)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	
Category 1	38.8	19.5	18.4	3.3	5.7	5.7	91.3
Category 2	57.4	34.2	26.0	5.6	9.2	6.2	138.5
Category 3	27.7	13.5	18.3	6.2	*	3.5	72.1
Unable to determine	6.9	*	3.1	*	*	*	13.5
Total	130.8	67.8	65.7	16.5	18.6	15.9	315.3
Categories of safe keeping of firearms	State (e)						Total
	N.S.W. (f)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	
Category 1	85.7	72.2	34.3	21.3	15.9	9.4	238.8
Category 2	120.1	103.4	45.7	30.5	24.2	13.2	337.0
Category 3	55.8	41.3	34.4	19.2	9.0	6.0	165.7
Unable to determine	17.0	7.4	6.7	4.0	*	*	37.8
Total	278.4	224.4	121.1	74.9	50.7	29.8	779.3

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (c) For definition of "safety" classification see paragraph 11. (d) See paragraphs 14 and 15. (e) Capital cities and other urban areas only. (f) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 8. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING WORKING FIREARMS (b) : SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS (c) OF OWNERS
IN STORING THEIR FIREARMS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF OWNER
(^{'000})

Characteristics of persons	Categories of safe keeping of firearms			Unable to determine	Total
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3		
Sex of person					
Male	230.3	319.7	154.5	36.3	740.8
Female	8.4	17.3	11.2	*	38.5
Total	238.8	337.0	165.7	37.8	779.3
Age (years)					
15 and under 20	18.3	30.1	16.3	4.6	69.3
20 and under 25	26.8	36.7	26.4	5.8	95.8
25 and under 30	27.6	46.1	28.3	4.7	106.7
30 and under 40	63.8	75.7	31.5	10.5	181.4
40 and under 50	39.4	73.2	24.8	8.5	145.9
50 and under 60	37.2	40.1	15.8	*	95.1
60 and over	25.6	35.2	22.6	*	85.1
Total	238.8	337.0	165.7	37.8	779.3
Marital status					
Never married	48.1	66.2	39.3	10.3	163.9
Now married	176.3	251.4	115.2	26.1	569.0
Widowed	*	8.3	6.0	*	18.0
Divorced/Separated	11.2	9.9	5.2	*	26.8
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*
Total	238.8	337.0	165.7	37.8	779.3
Country of birth					
Born in Australia	188.3	263.4	131.6	34.1	617.4
Main English speaking countries (d)	17.6	27.6	14.1	*	60.7
Other countries (e)	32.9	45.6	19.9	*	100.8
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*
Total	238.8	337.0	165.7	37.8	779.3
Labour force status					
Employed full-time (f)	174.8	249.9	109.7	30.1	564.5
Employed part-time (g)	27.9	33.5	26.7	4.9	93.0
Unemployed (h)	4.7	4.9	4.3	*	13.9
Not in the labour force (i)	27.0	44.1	22.7	*	96.1
Not stated	4.3	4.7	*	*	11.8
Total	238.8	337.0	165.7	37.8	779.3
Highest educational qualification obtained					
Still at school	8.7	7.6	5.1	*	21.7
Never attended school or left under 15 years	45.3	77.0	29.0	6.7	157.9
Left school 15 years and over	72.3	113.3	58.6	12.1	256.3
Trade technical or other qualifications (j)	92.7	113.0	57.3	13.6	276.7
Tertiary (k)	17.7	23.7	12.8	4.9	59.1
Not stated	*	*	*	*	7.7
Total	238.8	337.0	165.7	37.8	779.3

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 8. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING WORKING FIREARMS (b) : SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS (c) OF OWNER
IN STORING FIREARMS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF OWNER – *continued*
(⁰⁰⁰)

Categories of safe keeping of firearms

<i>Characteristics of persons</i>	<i>Category 1</i>	<i>Category 2</i>	<i>Category 3</i>	<i>Unable to determine</i>	<i>Total</i>
Occupation					
Professional, technical, administrative, executive-managerial and related workers	37.9	55.7	21.8	10.5	125.9
Clerical workers	15.9	20.9	16.3	*	56.8
Sales workers	12.0	18.3	6.8	*	40.0
Farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber-getters, miners, quarrymen and related workers	13.3	18.7	12.9	*	45.6
Workers in transport and communication	21.0	21.8	10.4	*	54.1
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c.	90.3	139.1	64.6	12.5	306.5
Service, sport and recreation workers	17.2	11.2	6.7	*	38.1
Members of armed services	*	*	*	*	5.8
Not in labour force	27.0	44.1	22.7	*	96.1
Not stated	*	4.7	*	*	10.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>238.8</i>	<i>337.0</i>	<i>165.7</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Gross weekly income (l)					
Under \$10	6.4	13.1	6.0	*	26.8
\$10 and under \$40	14.4	22.2	8.8	*	45.6
\$40 and under \$80	18.8	31.5	21.6	*	75.3
\$80 and under \$120	38.9	61.0	33.9	6.4	140.2
\$120 and under \$160	55.0	70.2	37.6	8.6	171.5
\$160 and under \$200	41.2	44.4	22.0	*	111.5
\$200 or more	36.6	54.5	15.7	7.0	113.9
Not stated	27.5	40.1	20.0	7.0	94.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>238.8</i>	<i>337.0</i>	<i>165.7</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>779.3</i>
Member of a shooters association, gun or rifle club					
Is a member	20.9	11.6	7.6	6.9	47.0
Is not a member	217.2	324.9	158.1	25.8	726.1
Not stated	*	*	*	5.1	6.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>238.8</i>	<i>337.0</i>	<i>165.7</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>779.3</i>

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (c) For definition of "safety" classification see paragraph 11. (d) United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, United States of America, South Africa and New Zealand. (e) This grouping does not necessarily indicate an inability to communicate in English. (f) Worked 35 hours or more last week in all jobs (includes employees and self-employed persons). (g) Worked less than 35 hours last week in all jobs (includes employees and self-employed persons). (h) Includes persons not working but actively looking for work. (i) Includes housewives, persons permanently unable to work, retired, voluntarily idle or still at school. (j) Any post-school qualifications other than tertiary qualifications. (k) Bachelor and higher degrees, qualifications obtained following substantial advanced study beyond matriculation conferred by institutions and professional associations. (l) See paragraph 12 for definition of gross income.

TABLE 9. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING WORKING FIREARMS (b) : TYPE OF TRAINING RECEIVED AND CHARACTERISTICS OF OWNER ('000)

Characteristic of owner	Type of training received					Total received training (c)	No training received	Total (d)
	Armed forces or cadets	Police force	Gun or rifle club	Friend or relation	Other			
Age (years)								
15 and under 20	8.2	*	5.1	32.1	*	41.7	25.2	69.3
20 and under 25	25.0	*	7.3	34.1	*	68.6	27.2	95.8
25 and under 30	30.7	4.0	9.5	29.6	*	70.2	35.1	106.7
30 and under 40	68.5	7.2	18.6	57.2	*	137.6	41.8	181.4
40 and under 50	65.3	*	16.7	32.3	*	109.9	32.7	145.9
50 and under 60	54.8	5.5	*	19.9	*	79.0	15.5	95.1
60 and over	43.0	*	5.9	18.1	*	63.4	18.8	85.1
<i>Total</i>	295.4	24.3	66.9	223.3	14.2	572.5	196.3	779.3
Highest educational qualification obtained								
Still at school	*	*	*	12.9	*	15.5	5.8	21.7
Never attended school or left under 15 years	55.5	4.0	11.3	40.6	*	106.5	49.9	157.9
Left school 15 years or over	85.9	10.4	15.7	82.7	6.2	188.4	66.9	256.3
Trade, technical or other qualifications (e)	116.5	7.4	31.3	70.9	4.2	207.6	63.6	276.7
Tertiary (f)	31.5	*	4.6	14.9	*	47.7	9.3	59.1
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	6.8	*	7.7
<i>Total</i>	295.4	24.3	66.9	223.3	14.2	572.5	196.3	779.3
Occupation								
Professional, technical, administrative, executive-managerial and related workers	61.1	*	10.9	35.4	*	100.5	22.5	125.9
Clerical workers	22.0	*	7.4	19.8	4.6	49.7	7.1	56.8
Sales workers	13.2	*	*	16.0	*	31.8	7.1	40.0
Farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber-getters, miners, quarrymen and related workers	17.0	*	*	12.6	*	31.0	14.7	45.6
Workers in transport and communication	20.5	*	*	17.0	*	39.8	13.6	54.1
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c.	109.5	*	30.2	80.6	*	209.0	92.5	306.5
Service, sport and recreation workers	11.7	13.1	*	8.0	*	33.5	4.6	38.1
Members of armed services	5.4	*	*	1.0	*	5.8	*	5.8
Not in the labour force	31.9	*	5.6	29.0	*	64.2	31.2	96.1
Not stated	*	*	*	4.0	*	7.2	*	10.4
<i>Total</i>	295.4	24.3	66.9	223.3	14.2	572.5	196.3	779.3
Gross weekly income (g)								
Under \$10	*	*	*	12.3	*	15.5	10.5	26.8
\$10 and under \$40	12.3	*	*	14.7	*	29.9	15.6	45.6
\$40 and under \$80	26.1	*	10.3	21.4	*	53.2	20.8	75.3
\$80 and under \$120	46.9	*	13.4	41.8	*	99.1	40.1	140.2
\$120 and under \$160	64.9	5.3	15.7	51.6	*	129.3	40.2	171.5
\$160 and under \$200	51.5	5.6	9.5	28.1	*	89.5	21.7	111.5
\$200 and more	53.9	7.1	7.1	28.6	*	89.4	22.4	113.9
Not stated	36.6	*	7.4	24.8	*	66.6	24.8	94.6
<i>Total</i>	295.4	24.3	66.9	223.3	14.2	572.5	196.3	779.3
Member of a shooters association, gun or rifle club								
Is a member	21.5	*	22.1	9.6	*	43.4	*	47.0
Is not a member	272.9	22.9	44.8	213.7	13.2	527.9	194.0	726.1
<i>Total (h)</i>	295.4	24.3	66.9	223.3	14.2	572.5	196.3	779.3

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know whether their firearms were in working order. (c) The sum of the components is usually higher than the total because owners could give more than one response for this question. (d) Includes those owners who did not state whether they had received training in the use of firearms. (e) Any post-school qualifications other than tertiary qualifications. (f) Bachelor or higher degrees, qualifications obtained following substantial advanced study beyond matriculation conferred by institutions and professional associations. (g) See paragraph 12 for definition of gross income. (h) Includes those owners who did not respond to this question.

TABLE 10. NUMBER OF PERSONS (a) OWNING WORKING FIREARMS (b) : AGE WHEN
FIRST FIREARM OBTAINED AND AGE OF OWNER
(^{'000})

Age when first firearm obtained	Age (years)							Total
	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 30	30 and under 40	40 and under 50	50 and under 60	60 and over	
Under 13	10.2	9.5	10.5	21.9	17.0	10.2	11.9	91.2
13 and under 15	14.9	6.2	9.0	14.3	17.3	9.5	9.5	80.6
15 and under 17	21.5	18.7	15.6	25.5	22.5	17.9	15.3	137.0
17 and under 19	18.9	27.5	22.3	36.1	24.5	19.2	12.5	161.0
19 and under 21	*	19.9	11.5	23.0	12.6	6.7	5.6	80.7
21 and under 26	n.a.	13.1	25.0	24.1	18.7	11.3	9.2	101.4
26 and under 31	n.a.	n.a.	10.1	22.8	10.1	6.6	2.2	51.8
31 and over	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	11.6	18.3	10.3	14.5	54.6
Total (c)	69.3	95.8	106.7	181.4	145.9	95.1	85.1	779.3

(a) Aged 15 years and over. (b) Includes those owners who did not state or did not know if their firearms were in working order. (c) Includes those owners who did not state the age when first firearm was obtained.

APPENDIX 1

STANDARD ERRORS

Reliability of the estimates

Since the estimates in this statement are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

2. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard error of all estimates in this statement. For this reason a table of standard errors for general application to the estimates of persons owning or possessing firearms is given below. Although these figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate they will indicate the order of magnitude. An example of the use of the table is: if the estimate obtained from a sample for N.S.W. is 100,000, the standard error is 8.9 per cent of the estimate, i.e. 8,900; this means that there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 91,100 to 108,900 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 82,200 and 117,800.

3. The standard errors of estimates of the number of firearms are about 25 per cent higher than the standard errors of estimates of the same number of persons owning or possessing firearms. An example of this is: if the estimate of the number of firearms obtained from the sample for N.S.W. is 100,000, then the standard error of that estimate will be $(1.25 \times 8.9) =$

11 per cent of 100,000, i.e. 11,000. There are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 89,000 to 111,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the figure is between 78,000 and 122,000.

4. Standard errors as a percentage of the estimates are shown for the total of the six States in the table below. The percentages show that, the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Relatively small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this statement, estimates not considered sufficiently reliable have not been shown. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable. The reliability of an estimated percentage depends on the reliability of both the numerator and denominator of the percentage. In general, however, any percentage shown in this publication will be subject to a percent standard error lower than that for the corresponding estimate (numerator).

5. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers, and respondents, and in office coding and processing. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES - PERSONS

Size of estimate (persons)	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total	
							Number	Per cent of estimate (a)
				Per cent of estimate				
1,500	..	..	..	..	..	33.0	..	..
2,000	..	..	34.0	..	..	29.0	..	..
3,000	..	..	29.0	31.0	32.0	24.0	..	..
4,000	..	..	26.0	27.0	28.0	21.0	1,300	32.0
5,000	32.0	32.0	23.0	24.0	25.0	19.0	1,400	28.0
10,000	24.0	23.0	18.0	17.0	18.0	14.0	2,100	21.0
20,000	18.0	17.0	13.0	12.0	13.0	10.0	3,100	15.0
30,000	15.0	14.0	11.3	10.0	10.0	8.5	3,800	13.0
50,000	12.0	11.0	9.1	8.0	8.2	6.7	5,100	10.0
100,000	8.9	8.2	6.8	5.8	5.8	4.9	7,400	7.4
200,000	6.5	5.9	5.1	4.1	4.1	3.6	11,000	5.5
300,000	5.5	4.9	4.4	3.4	3.4	3.0	14,000	4.6
500,000	4.4	3.9	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.4	18,000	3.6
1,000,000	3.3	2.8	2.7	1.9	1.9	..	27,000	2.7
2,000,000	2.4	2.1	..	..	..	..	39,000	1.9
5,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	64,000	1.3

(a) In this publication, estimates with a standard error of more than 30 per cent have not been published.

APPENDIX 2

FIREARM OWNERSHIP QUESTIONS

The extract of the questionnaire below shows the firearm questions that were asked of all persons aged 15 years and over. Questions on the other surveys included in the General Social Survey and personal characteristics (sex, age, marital status etc.) were included elsewhere in the questionnaire.

2. The questionnaire has been included to assist in interpretation of the tables, but it should be borne in mind that the questions were asked by interviewers who had been specially trained and had written instructions on the use of the questionnaire.

252. WE ARE ALSO SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXTENT OF FIREARM OWNERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE REASONS FOR OWNING FIREARMS.

WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER THE GUNS ARE REGISTERED OR LICENSED.

253. DO YOU OWN OR NORMALLY POSSESS A FIREARM WHETHER IT IS IN WORKING ORDER OR NOT? Q253
Yes ☐ 1
No (go to 276) ☐ 2

254. WHAT TYPES OF FIREARMS DO YOU HAVE? Q254
Rifles.. ☐ 1
Shotguns .. ☐ 2
Combination Rifle-Shotguns .. ☐ 3
Air Rifles.. ☐ 4
Pistols or Revolvers .. ☐ 5

Now go to 255

255. Interviewer: Ask for each type of firearm marked above.
HOW MANY (.....) DO YOU HAVE?

Rifles	Shotguns	Combination Rifle-Shotguns	Air Rifles	Pistols or Revolvers
Q255	Q256	Q257	Q258	Q259
☐ 0 ☐ 0	☐ 0 ☐ 0	☐ 0 ☐ 0	☐ 0 ☐ 0	☐ 0 ☐ 0
☐ 1 ☐ 1	☐ 1 ☐ 1	☐ 1 ☐ 1	☐ 1 ☐ 1	☐ 1 ☐ 1
☐ 2 ☐ 2	☐ 2 ☐ 2	☐ 2 ☐ 2	☐ 2 ☐ 2	☐ 2 ☐ 2
☐ 3 ☐ 3	☐ 3 ☐ 3	☐ 3 ☐ 3	☐ 3 ☐ 3	☐ 3 ☐ 3
☐ 4 ☐ 4	☐ 4 ☐ 4	☐ 4 ☐ 4	☐ 4 ☐ 4	☐ 4 ☐ 4
☐ 5 ☐ 5	☐ 5 ☐ 5	☐ 5 ☐ 5	☐ 5 ☐ 5	☐ 5 ☐ 5
☐ 6 ☐ 6	☐ 6 ☐ 6	☐ 6 ☐ 6	☐ 6 ☐ 6	☐ 6 ☐ 6
☐ 7 ☐ 7	☐ 7 ☐ 7	☐ 7 ☐ 7	☐ 7 ☐ 7	☐ 7 ☐ 7
☐ 8 ☐ 8	☐ 8 ☐ 8	☐ 8 ☐ 8	☐ 8 ☐ 8	☐ 8 ☐ 8
☐ 9 ☐ 9	☐ 9 ☐ 9	☐ 9 ☐ 9	☐ 9 ☐ 9	☐ 9 ☐ 9

Now go to 260

260. IS (ARE ANY OF) THE FIREARM(S) IN WORKING ORDER?

Q260
Yes (go to 262) ☐ 1
No ☐ 2
Don't know (go to 262) ☐ 3

261. WHY IS (ARE) THE FIREARM(S) NOT IN WORKING ORDER?

Q261
Gun disassembled or in pieces ☐ 1
Part of gun lost.. ☐ 2
Part of gun altered ☐ 3
Too old, jammed, rusty, etc. ☐ 4
Other ☐ 5
Don't know ☐ 6

Now go to 276

262. HOW DID YOU ACQUIRE THE FIREARM(S)? Q262
War Souvenir ☐ 1
Gift (exclude bequest) ☐ 2
Bequest.. ☐ 3
Purchased from dealer ☐ 4
Purchased from person other than dealer ☐ 5
On loan / minding ☐ 6
Brought home from work ☐ 7
Other ☐ 8
Don't know ☐ 9

Now go to 263

263. WHY DO YOU KEEP OR OWN THE FIREARM(S)? Q263
Souvenir / antique collection ☐ 1
Sport ☐ 2
Protection of self or household ☐ 3
Protection of business ☐ 4
Part of business or job ☐ 5
Minding.. ☐ 6
Other reason ☐ 7
No specific reason ☐ 8
Don't know ☐ 9

264. IN WHAT ROOM IS (ARE) YOUR FIREARM(S) NORMALLY KEPT? Q264
Garage or shed ☐ 1
Storeroom. ☐ 2
Kitchen ☐ 3
Lounge / living room ☐ 4
Bedroom ☐ 5
Elsewhere in house ☐ 6
Other dwelling ☐ 7
Motor vehicle ☐ 8
Other ☐ 9
Don't know ☐ 10

265. Sequence Guide
If any guns kept in the dwelling (codes 1,2,3,4,5, or 6 above), continue.. ☐ 1
Otherwise, go to 269 ☐ 2

266. WHERE IS IT (ARE THEY) NORMALLY KEPT IN THAT (THOSE) ROOM(S)? Q266
Wardrobe / cupboard ☐ 1
Box / drawer / case ☐ 2
In safe ☐ 3
Lying about the house ☐ 4
Mounted on wall.. ☐ 5
Other ☐ 6

267. (If codes 1 or 2 above, ask)
IS THE WARDROBE / CUPBOARD / BOX / DRAWER / CASE USUALLY LOCKED? Q267
Yes ☐ 1
No ☐ 2

268. (If any firearms mounted on wall, code 5 in 266, ask)
IS (ARE) THE FIREARM(S) SECURELY FIXED OR FASTENED TO THE WALL?

Q268
Yes ☐ 1
No ☐ 2

269. DO YOU HAVE ANY AMMUNITION
AT PRESENT? Q269

- Yes .. ☐ 1
No (go to 272) .. ☐ 2
Don't know (go to 272) .. ☐ 3

270. HOW MANY ROUNDS OF
AMMUNITION DO YOU HAVE? Q270

- 1 - 9 rounds .. ☐ 1
10 - 49 rounds .. ☐ 2
50 - 99 rounds .. ☐ 3
100 or more rounds .. ☐ 4

271. IS THERE ANY AMMUNITION
AT PRESENT WITH (ANY OF)
THE FIREARM(S)? Q271

- Yes .. ☐ 1
No .. ☐ 2
Don't know .. ☐ 3

272. HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU
OBTAINED YOUR FIRST
FIREARM? Q272

--	--

Years old

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |

273. ARE YOU AT PRESENT A MEMBER
OF A SHOOTERS' ASSOCIATION,
GUN OR RIFLE CLUB?

Q273

- Yes .. ☐ 1
No .. ☐ 2
Don't know .. ☐ 3

274. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TRAINED
IN HANDLING FIREARMS? Q274

- Yes .. ☐ 1
No (go to 276) .. ☐ 2

275. WHO TRAINED YOU?

Q275

- Armed forces or cadets .. ☐ 1
Police force .. ☐ 2
Gun or rifle club .. ☐ 3
Friend / relation .. ☐ 4
Other .. ☐ 5



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